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The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.

Fallujah Another Major Foreign Policy Blunder (Rep. Franks)

Politics today, is apparently more important than strategic advancements on a battlefield. More important than the legacy of our fallen heroes. And more important than the national security of this great nation. This President, which former Secretary of Defense Bob Gates has made so evident to the American people, followed his poll-tested campaign rhetoric, not the advice of our most senior military leaders, and pulled all of our troops out of Iraq.

The fallout of course, which many saw coming a mile away, is what transpired last week in Fallujah.



Photo by 1st Lt Kimberly Snow

A cavalry scout with the 1st Infantry Divisions 3rd Brigade Reconnaissance Troop takes cover in a house in southern Fallujah after receiving sniper fire while conducting clearing operations Nov. 15, 2004.

The vacuum left by our precipitous departure means not just al-Qaida returning to Iraq, they are establishing themselves in Syria, the Maghreb, the Arabian Peninsula, and reestablishing bonds with the Muslim Brotherhood and providing support to them in Egypt – another Obama major foreign policy failure.

I cannot imagine how painful Fallujah falling must be to our nation's best and brightest, those who served on the front lines and saw their brothers and sisters in arms fall to the hands of terrorists. The outpouring of feelings from veterans around the country says it all. To them, the hard-won victories during years of war, the lives lost, the mental and physical injuries many still carry and the relationships built - now seem for naught.

The President's disastrous failure in Fallujah foreshadows the waning of the war in Afghanistan. One cannot help but think that this President feels this too, is not his war. While already having issued a drawdown strategy and a target exit date, this President still has not secured a Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA). Not securing a BSA in Iraq is a major reason of why we are witnessing the attacks in Fallujah.

This United States is in desperate need of a strategic, 21st century leader, failure to elect one in the next election could have the gravest implications for us all.

Iran Nuclear Deal: Far From Over (Rep. Cotton)

Over the weekend, Iran and the P5+1 nations finalized the interim deal to significantly ease sanctions on Iran while the nations, the United States among them, seek to negotiate a longer-term deal to curb Iran's nuclear capabilities. This unfortunate and dangerous deal has been fraught and poorly communicated since it was initially "agreed" upon in November.

Iran criticized the summary of the deal that the White House released just days after the deal was made in Geneva. An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman called the White House press release a "one-sided interpretation of the agreed text," and said parts of it "contradict" the actual plan. Then, on January 9, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, denounced the United States and said the nuclear talks highlighted the hostility of Americans toward Iran and the Muslim world. These remarks and contradictions from the Iranian regime should come as no surprise given Iran's past behavior—numerous clandestine nuclear facilities, egregious human rights abuses, and consistent violations of numerous international treaties and conventions. Iran is neither an ally nor a trusted partner. For 35 years and continuing today, the rogue regime has lied to and misled the world about its nuclear aspirations and, more importantly, its nuclear capabilities.

For months, I have remained skeptical about any deal with Iran that does not require them to make material concessions regarding their nuclear program. Congress, the American people, and, most importantly, our allies in the Middle East, need some assurance that Iran is acting in good

faith. One such way to demonstrate our seriousness is to pass the bi-partisan Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013, introduced by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) in December. This legislation would expand U.S. sanctions on Iran and provide guidance to the administration for the acceptable terms of a final agreement with Iran. The legislation provides the president with a six-month window for negotiations to achieve a final agreement. Notably, the Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act meets President Obama's request that no additional sanctions be imposed during the talks.

Sitting idly for the next six months is not an acceptable option for Congress. In the absence of a meaningful agreement, we must prepare to re-enact sanctions on the rogue regime that has time and again deceived the U.S. and our allies and flouted numerous international legal obligations.



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